

## **TQELL Report, 2007-2008**

- Goal:** 2–IMPROVE TEACHING FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS (ELLs)  
**Objectives:** Improve teaching for diverse learners (ELLs particularly) by building capacity of teacher educators and teacher candidates.  
**Strategy:**
1. Establish partnerships between representatives of IHEs and the members of the Administrators' L2 group
  2. Provide opportunities for teacher educators and teacher candidates to improve teaching for culturally and linguistically diverse learners.
- Activities:**

### **1. Technology (Polycom) Project**

**PURPOSE:** To encourage the implementation and use of research-based strategies that have the highest probability of improving student achievement by demonstrating effective ways to teach ELLs in K–12 settings.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** Teacher educators and teacher candidates will have opportunities to interact with classrooms and classroom teachers of culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Forty IP Video Conferencing Units have been made available for use by teacher educators (20) and public schools (20). These units may be used to observe, communicate, collaborate, and allow pre-service students and faculty to interact with K–12 classrooms, ELL students, and teachers.

Funding will be provided to participating institutions of higher education and public school districts for training teacher educators and classroom teachers.

**GRANT PERIOD:** April 1, 2007 through December 15, 2008 (implemented in the fall)

**CURRENT GRANTEES (IHEs):** Buena Vista, Drake, Mt. Mercy, Simpson, UNI, Upper Iowa

**PARTICIPATING LEAs:** Ottumwa, Estherville, Sioux Center, Waterloo, West Sioux

**CURRENT APPLICANTS:** Dordt, Muscatine Community College

A polycom advisory committee meeting was held in September and a training was given over the ICN in December. A parent release form, Frequently Asked Questions document, and a teacher information form were prepared.

### **2. Immersion Experience**

**DESCRIPTION:** An opportunity for Iowa Administrators & Teacher Educators to gain a deeper understanding of Iowa's immigrant students through travel to Villachuato, Mexico

**GOALS/OBJECTIVES:** To give administrators and teacher educators a better

understanding of the backgrounds and experiences of Iowa's ELL students by giving participants—

- a second language immersion experience
- opportunities to learn about Mexican culture
- an understanding of the community context of rural Mexico
- a chance to observe teaching and learning in Mexican classrooms and to talk with Mexican teachers about the differences student encounter when transitioning from one schooling culture to the other

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR twenty Iowa school administrators and twenty teacher educators

- a. TRIP 1: May 1–5, 2007  
11 educators and 1 facilitator participated in the trip. (Administrators: 8, TEs: 3)
- b. TRIP 2: September 18–22, 2007  
11 educators and one facilitator participated
- c. TRIP 3: January 26 – February 1, 2008  
9 educators and one facilitator participated

### **3. Professional Development Opportunities**

1. Our Kids
  - i. 2006: 69 teachers and pre-service students participated
  - ii. 2007:
  - iii. 2008: planned for UNI, July 29 – 31
2. Iowa Culture and Language Conference (ICLC)
  - i. ICLC 2006: 57 participants
  - ii. ICLC 2007: 84 participants
  - iii. ICLC 2008:  
Performance Target: 150 teacher educators and pre-service students participating.

### **4. General IHE Participation**

Fourteen participating institutions: Mt. Mercy, ISU, UNI, Simpson, Dordt, William Penn, Graceland, Emmaus, Briar Cliff, Morningside, Drake, Buena Vista, Northwestern, Upper Iowa